



MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN TASK FORCE

MEETING NOTES

MAY 18, 2004

4:00 P.M.

ROOM 113

Task Force Members Present	Kit Boesch, Nye Bond, Susan Dunn, Margaret Hall, Elaine Hammer, Rick Krueger, Marian Malone, Greg MacLean, Oscar Pohirieth, Patte Newman, Gordon Scholz, Terry Werner. (Duane Eitel, Bill McCoy, Tad McDowell, Eric Miller absent)
Resource Panel Members Present	Mike Brienzo, Larry Worth, Jerry Wray
Others Present	Brian Praeuner, Doug Ramp, Dean Setter, Alan Wickman, Kent Morgan, David Cary, Michele Abendroth

Agenda Topics

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Morgan called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed those present.

2. Public Comment Period (10 min. maximum)

Doug Ramp stated that he is here on behalf of the poor, mentally ill and disabled to address the challenges he has experienced with transportation. He distributed a copy of a proposal addressing his issues with transportation. Many hundreds of people with needs similar to his rely on public transportation, but he feels the bus service is inadequate. He believes every person deserves the right to transportation. He is aware that the City has considered strategies to improve public transportation, but immediate solutions are needed. They would like the City to consider the following strategies:

- Distribute taxi vouchers for qualified persons from the target population
- Reconfigure the transit grid with more point to point shorter routes, and fewer “connection-reliant” routes
- Implement free or reduced-cost bus and taxi fares
- Maintain a smaller, more versatile fleet of StarTran vehicles

Alan Wickman stated that he has contacted two groups of experienced bicyclists regarding the bike lane selections noted in the final report, and both groups felt that the selections noted in the final report were poor choices.

3. Introduction of Small Group Exercise

Mr. Morgan explained that the Task Force members will conduct an exercise by dividing into two groups, one group lead by Terry Werner and one lead by Patte Newman. Kent Morgan and David Cary will record the thoughts of each of the groups. Each group will discuss topics under four major categories, public transit, pedestrian and bicycles, land use/development and administration/management. The purpose of the activity is to pinpoint specific activities and/or actions the members would like to include in their final recommendations.

4. Task Force Small Group Exercise

The Task Force members divided in to two small groups at 3:28 p.m. and discussed issues of their own accord, then re-convened as a group at 5:05 p.m.

5. Task Force Discussion of Small Group Exercise Results

With respect to public transportation, Mr. Werner stated his group talked a lot about public transportation but it boiled down to offering some service to everyone in some fashion. One member of the group suggested serving a smaller, more compact area with more efficient service. Another member felt that everyone has a right to some form of public transportation. They also felt that it is an economic issue in that every person who has a job should be able to get to it. Ms. Newman stated that her group felt that instead of studying an issue, we just need to implement a plan. They suggested implementing a trial of new methods and services in a core area first.

In the pedestrian/bicycle category, Mr. Werner stated that his group looked at a funding source or some mechanism for funding trails. They want well-maintained sidewalks and a connected system. Ms. Newman stated her group would like to have a well-maintained system that is connected throughout the community, and they suggested starting in the core. Mr. Krueger questioned starting in the core as many people on the periphery of the City use the trails. Ms. Boesch stated that the goal was to narrow the focus to a more manageable area.

Under the land use/development category, Mr. Werner stated that one member of the group suggested having higher density everywhere in the City. They also agreed that design standards should be developed.

In the administration/management category, Mr. Werner stated that they agreed that we need a resource staff position. They also talked about how to get funding in place, possibly a worker tax, gasoline tax, or wheel tax on bicycles. They also discussed a collaborative relationship with UNL as well as Lincoln Public Schools. Ms. Dunn added that other large employers should also be considered with respect to collaborative efforts. Ms. Newman stated that her group also agreed with the need for the staff resource position to lead these efforts. There was also some discussion of the transportation department to determine the function of each department and to ensure that each department is cooperating with one another.

6. Adjourn

Mr. Morgan asked the Task Force if they would be willing to add another meeting on June 29th. There was general agreement from the group to do so. Mr. Morgan then adjourned the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

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